

Press Release

HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Division of Emergency Operations



PUBLIC SAFETY

"Ensuring a Safe
Harford"

EDUCATION

"Preparing Now,
Building for the Future"

EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

"Governing Smarter"

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

"Growing and Sustaining
Harford's Prosperity"

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

"Protecting Our
Environment"

QUALITY LIVING

"Safeguarding What is
Important to Harford
County Citizens"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 28, 2011

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Harford County Begins Recovery from Hurricane Irene

(Bel Air, MD) - - Harford County Government has begun recovery efforts from Hurricane Irene as the storm moves out of the area.

As of 1:00 PM on Sunday, there were 93 sections of county-maintained roads that were closed. Another 20 roads that had been closed had been cleared and reopened. County highways crews are working diligently to clear roads, and an updated listing of the status of county roads is available at www.harfordcountymd.gov/alerts/RoadStatus.cfm.

Also as of 1:00 PM, utility companies are reporting over 50,000 customers in Harford County without power. Utility crews are in the field working to restore power as quickly as possible. However given the large number of homes and businesses without power, utility companies are advising that it may take a number of days before all power is restored.

The county's emergency shelter at Patterson Mill Middle/High School remains open for county residents who wish to use it. Fifteen people (13 adults and two children) stayed at the shelter overnight Saturday into Sunday.

Approximately 20 structures were reported as sustaining significant damage from falling debris. The Harford County Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits (DILP) has four crews of inspectors that are performing structural assessments determine whether the structures are habitable.

For safety reasons and to allow utility crews to perform their work, Harford County residents are asked to stay off the roads today unless absolutely necessary. If travel is necessary, drivers are reminded to treat intersections with malfunctioning traffic signals as four-way stops. Also, residents using generators are advised to ensure that there is adequate ventilation so as to negate the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.

(more)

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The Harford County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) remains activated to coordinate recovery in the aftermath of the storm. County Executive David R. Craig visited the EOC three times during the storm, and attended a midnight briefing with EOC staff. He also visited the shelter at Patterson Mill in the early hours Sunday.

“Hurricane Irene has left her mark on Harford County, and it will be days and even weeks until everything is back to normal,” County Executive Craig stated. “I have to commend the EOC and our county crews who have worked around the clock to coordinate recovery efforts.”

“I want to assure all Harford County residents that we will be working 24-7 to restore our infrastructure, and I ask for their cooperation and understanding during this process.”

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“Preserving Harford’s past; promoting Harford’s future”